

## **Resolution to coordinate periodic project reviews and adherence to technical standards by the Distance Learning project as defined in LB 833.**

### **Authority**

LB833 Sec. 2. (1) For fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03, the Excellence in Education Council shall grant up to twenty percent of the Education Innovation Fund, not to exceed one million five hundred thousand dollars per fiscal year, to a grantee for a distance education network completion grant. The distance education network completion grant shall fund engineering, equipment, and installation charges for two-way interactive distance education capacity for public high school buildings that do not currently have such capacity. The grant application shall:

(e) Specify the procedure for assuring that all projects meet the standards of the technical panel created in section 86-1511, including periodic reviews of projects by the technical panel;

### **Problem Statement**

The Technical Panel recognizes that the State of Nebraska has numerous independent distance learning consortia organized for the purpose of delivering two-way, interactive instruction to high school students, staff, and citizens.

The Technical Panel recognizes that these consortia originally adopted technologies that were appropriate for their own needs and generally not conducive nor contributive to a statewide, interoperable system.

The Technical Panel recognizes that immediate evolution to a statewide, interoperable system from its current state would require specialized hardware or software gateways and substantial funding to solve these problems.

### **Vision Statement**

Technical Panel resolves to work toward a statewide two-way interactive distance education network that includes all participating public high schools and institutions of higher education.

### **Scope of Work**

In order to do this, the Technical Panel will:

- Have the Video Standards Work Group recommend a video standard that will improve the quality and efficiency of video transmission between and among participating schools and institutions of higher education;
- Have the Video Standards Work Group recommend a technology migration path that will allow existing consortia to convert to the new video standard at the earliest reasonable time with deference to contractual obligations and cost considerations;

- Have the Video Standards Work Group suggest the information that the project implementation plan should include in order to meet the Technical Panel review requirements;
- Encourage the rapid deployment of technology with consideration given to wise technology choices as well as local and State requirements;
- Adopt a review schedule that includes initial review of the project implementation plan and periodic reviews of local implementations throughout the life cycle of the project;
- Recommend a statewide scheduling system that respects local management of facilities but provides for a centralized event calendar.

The Technical Panel may also provide input on the following requirements contained in LB833:

- Specify criteria for determining the engineering, equipment, and installation charges which the grant will fund;
- Specify the technique for prorating funding and collecting funds from districts if the charges for engineering, equipment, and installation for the public high school buildings for which grant funds are used exceed the grant funds available;
- Specify the timeline for completing a statewide two-way interactive distance education network that includes all participating public high schools.